New England Deaconess Hospital

pulse

185 Pilgrim Road, Boston, Massachusetts | VOLUME 32 – NUMBER 12 | DECEMBER, 1979

Big Brothers and Sisters provide holiday spirit all year

At Christmas time our thoughts naturally turn to children – our own, our younger brothers and sisters, or friends. It's a time of giving and sharing.

But for people like Bruce Mann, Caroline Russell and Don Fraser, this holiday spirit is extended throughout the year to their "Little Brothers and Sisters."

For several years these Deaconess employees and others have been Big Brothers and Sisters to Boston area children. Little Brothers and Sisters are generally between the ages of seven and fifteen. Both the Big Brother and Big Sister organizations have long waiting lists of children who want to be matched with adults.

The children have differing problems and needs and they come from a variety of family, social and economic environments. But in one way or another, each Little Brother and Sister needs a special friend.

Bruce, a unit secretary in service coordination, was a 19-year old Northeastern student when he decided to make a commitment to the Big Brother organization. Both Big Brother and Big Sister require a minimum of 4 hours a week for at least 1 year (1 ½ years at Big Sister).

"After I was interviewed, I was given the choice of three boys from the age group I requested. Peter was the first one described and I said 'stop right there,' " said Bruce.

Peter, who was 11 at the time, got over his initial shyness quickly as he and Bruce did everything together from pinball and bowling to movies and motorcycle riding. "I'm really a mixture of father and brother to Peter, who lives with his mother and two sisters."

I treat him like I would my own son," said Bruce, "He loves mechanics and we've spent a lot of time working on cars. Over the past four years I've encouraged him to set his goals higher. He's gone from wanting to be a gas pump jockey to being an airline pilot."

Caroline, a night nurse on Baker 3, was matched with her Little Sister, Anna, two years ago. "Anna, who was nine at the time, had been referred by a Cambridge school because she was having a few adjustment problems," said Caroline, "Anna was difficult to get to know at first, but after a year her teacher called me and said that she had settled down quite a bit in school."

Caroline and Anna take advantage of the free passes Big Sister receives from many organizations, and some of the programs offered by Big Sister. "When I first joined it was for altrustic reasons – to help all the children who needed me," said Caroline, "But I'm actually having the time of my life. I have an excuse to go to the circus, visit museums, ice-skate, etc.

Unit secretary Bruce Mann (l) with his "little brother" Peter.

"Getting to know your little Sister is a long process, but it can be rewarding. You wonder how much effect you have on them when they have an opportunity to experience a different environment and life-style."

One common frustration of Big Brothers and Sisters is their inability to spread themselves out to more children who need extra guidance before they reach their teens. Sometimes, if Big Brothers or Sisters have children of their own, the Little Brothers and Sisters may fear being displaced.

"At first Anthony was jealous when our baby, Emily, was born. Anthony thought I'd give him less attention," said Don, public relations assistant, "We settled this problem by making him an official uncle. I think it helps if you make it clear from the beginning that you're not the boy's father, but that your relationship is special and he makes a unique contribution to your life."

Don applied for a Little Brother three years ago because he wanted to do something constructive with his life and time. He also felt something lacking from his own boyhood since his father had died when Don was 11. "That was an important time to have a father and I thought I would do for someone else what hadn't been done for me."

Anthony, now 11, and Don enjoy exploring and working together, especially at the weekend flea markets. As with others in the Big Brother and Sister programs, Don isn't sure who gains more from the experience.

"Sometimes the most meaningful exchanges come out of sharing simple times together," said Don, "One night I took Anthony with me to a photography lab to finish some of my work. He couldn't get enough of the place. Afterwards we were walking home when he suddenly turned to me and said, 'I love you'. That meant a lot to me."

Reflections of an octogenarian physician

Forty-four years as a practicing physician at the Deaconess has given Dr. Theodore L. Badger a rare insight into the evolution of his profession. Much has changed since he began his duties as an internist in 1935 at what was then a four building hospital complex located beside a meandering river.

Dr. Badger, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, began his career as a specialist in tuberculosis and was chief of staff for 25 years at the Channing Home for Tuberculosis, located on the present site of the Meissner Laboratories. From 1932 to 1968, he served on the Harvard teaching staff unit at Boston City Hospital and conducted studies on chest diseases.

In 1964 when the Deaconess initiated its present intern-resident system, Dr. Badger joined the staff and participated in the teaching program. Since December 1977, he has served as physician advisor of the Utilization Review Committee.

On meeting Dr. Badger one quickly conjures visions of the proverbial country general practitioner who delivered all the kids in town and was both known and loved by all. Further talks with him reveal that accompanying these features is a vigorous mind fully versed and involved in the complexities of contemporary medicine.

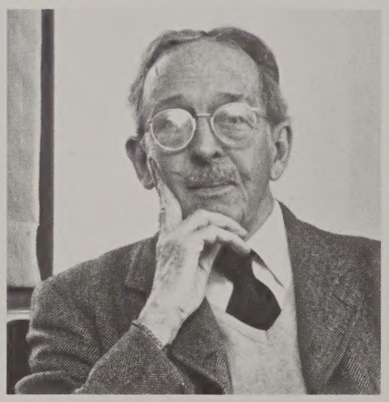
"Perhaps the most striking difference in medicine today versus the 1930's is that third party payers, including the government, play an increasing role in the payment of medical costs. Medicare and Blue Cross now pay up to 80% or more of these hospital costs and in so doing, it is logical to expect them to look over our shoulders to see how their money is spent. So both patients and physicians have had to accept some monitoring of the quality of care as well as its cost."

Increased government involvement has also led to a philosophical shift in the way we view medicine according to Dr. Badger.

"There are no doctors any longer but providers, patients are being replaced by consumers and the practice and art of medicine are rarely spoken of in government circles but rather the delivery of medical care. Even the profession is spoken of as the medical industry."

Another major change that Dr. Badger has witnessed over the years is the increased use of mechanical equipment by physicians to aid in diagnosing their patient's ills. "In my earlier days we only had X-rays and relied more heavily on our five senses and accumulated clinical experience in making a diagnosis."

Despite the encroachment of government and technology on medicine, the strong basic patient-physician relationship remains intact with today's young doctors, contends Dr. Badger.



"The most important single asset of a good doctor is a genuine concern for the health and welfare of his patient. I think there will always be good doctors who will listen to their patients and be understanding. This will earn them the confidence of their patient which is so essential to the practice of good medicine."

'Tis the season to be jolly, 'tis the time to donate blood.

Visit the blood bank on Deaconess three, or call 732-9085 today.

Alumnae Reunion: a day for renewing friendships

COME RAIN, SLEET OR HAIL – Martha Toothaker Souza (l) and Linda Patti DeCoste '69 are among the first to arrive.

Despite driving rains, over 200 alumnae of the School of Nursing gathered together at Audrey K. Kennedy Hall on November 3 for the Eleventh Annual Alumnae Day. A coffee hour from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. began the day and permitted many old friendships to be renewed.

Almost all graduating classes were represented with Nancy Peterson '15 being the senior participant. Some alumnae travelled from as far away as California, Arizona and Colorado to attend.

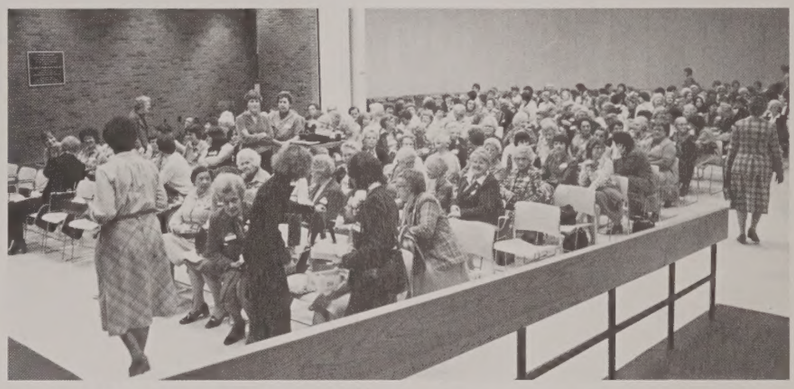
Following a brief business meeting highlighted by the down-Maine humor of Priscilla Archibald's treasurer's report, the following alumnae were elected to serve as officers for the 1979-80 year:

President elect –	Rhonda Crocker	Assistant Treasurer –	Elizabeth Dunbar
President –	Lois Schultz	Corresponding Secretary –	Deborah Hiller
Treasurer –	Priscilla Archibald		

Alumnae members were then treated to a slide talk presentation by night nursing supervisor Bonnie Pfenninghaus on her recent trip to China. During the trip, Ms. Pfenninghaus's group witnessed major surgery being performed under acupuncture. At the conclusion of the operation, she related, the patient stood up unassisted, shook hands with the surgeons and nurses and was able to walk to the recovery room.

After the business meeting, the alumnae closed out the day with a luncheon at Longwood Towers where Laurens MacLure, president of the hospital, and Miss Ellen Howland, director of the school of nursing, spoke on the strengths of the school, and asked for continued support of the states' Diploma Nurses' Association.

REMINISCING – Carl Stone '74 and Carol Brown Kennedy '72 talk over old times.



HAIL! HAIL! THE GANG'S ALL HERE – Over 200 nursing alumnae pack Howland Auditorium for a business meeting followed by a slide talk by Bonnie Pfenninghaus on her recent trip to China.

A MEMENTO – Adeline Artesani (r), School of Nursing, shows a plate of Harris Hall, former site of the School, to Barbara Broadbent Corey and Mary Parker Baruch '48.

MY KINGDOM FOR A CAB – A steady downpour proved a boon for Boston cabbies as alumnae members line up outside Kennedy Hall, the School of Nursing building, for a short ride to the luncheon reception at Longwood Towers in Brookline.

20TH REUNION – CLASS OF 1959 – Standing: (l-r) Marsha Brooks Kendrick, Doris Ritter Moberg, Norma Bastow Houghton, Gail Crandall MacDonald. Seated: Jan Staples Wilshire, Elizabeth Bangs McCabe, Loretta Smith Dragsbaek, Betty Smith Wilhelmsen and Marjorie Long Karis.

40TH REUNION – CLASS OF 1939. Top row to bottom (l-r): Lillian Jewell Fuess, Phyllis Pender Williamson, Eleanor Danforth Emmons, Marion Gould Flanagan, Margareta Carlson Trowbridge, Helen Churchill Smith, Pauline Mayhew, Katherine Hayes Sletten, Geniveve Mann, Alice Holgate Brackett, Mildred Sackson Fiola, Glendys Bickford Case, Edith Briggs Sommers, Marion Jewett Jackson, Ruth Wells Baxter, Elizabeth Blakely Cousser, Elaine Merrill Holt, Sarah Washburn Brigham, Mabel MacPherson Allen, Helena Gray Hammer, Edith Goodwin Miller, Elizabeth Abrams James, Marjorie Briggs Kelley, and Marjorie Clinch Whitman.

Managers appointed in two departments

L. Susan Conway has been named medical records services director, and Jeanne M. Peterson has been appointed manager of the service coordination department. Both appointments became effective November 13.

Ms. Conway will oversee medical records, utilization review, patient care audit and the tumor registry. "We'll be revamping all the quality assurance functions, tying together the departments which need to work closely and generally modernizing the hospital's record control systems," she said.

L. Susan Conway

Ms. Conway graduated from Northeastern University as a registered records administrator in 1975. She went on to work for a total of four years as director of medical records and admitting at Leominister Hospital, and as director of the medical report department at Salem Hospital. This month she completed her masters in business administration at Suffolk University.

In her newly appointed position as manager of the hospital's service coordination department, Ms. Peterson will direct a staff of approximately 90 people.

The department provides administrative, clerical and managerial support to nursing service and thus relieves the professional nurse to provide a higher level of patient care.

Ms. Peterson, a registered nurse, has a degree in social and health services from Roger Williams College in Bristol, R.I.

Besides her nursing experience, she has worked as a social and health service nurse practitioner at People, Inc., Fall River, MA, at their Vocational Rehabilitation Center, and as clinical coordinator–supervisor at Homemaker-Home Health Aide Service of Greater Fall River.

Jeanne M. Peterson

Dino Fantegrossi and Mary Moberly, cost containment committee members, admire new cost containment bulletin boards which were recently put up in the Farr lobby and employee cafeteria. The bulletin boards feature cost saving measures of Deaconess employees.

Deaconess News in Brief

Dr. Elton Watkins, Jr., Lahey Clinic and NEDH department of surgery, presented two papers at international medical meetings earlier this fall in Switzerland. The topics were: the "Future Direction of Controlled European Trials in Vascular Heterografting" at the International Symposium on Vascular Heterograft Surgery in Sion; and the "Control of Metastatic Cancer by Lymphocytes Sensitized to Enzyme-pretreated Cancer Cells" at the Swiss National Cancer Institute in Lausanne.

Mary MacRichie, a former Deaconess operating room supervisor, has been appointed as a full colonel in the army reserve program. Furthermore, we are pleased to report that the appointment made this past summer is retroactive to 1974 when she retired from the hospital.

Susan Levine, renal dietitian specialist, co-lectured on "Nutritional Implications of Diabetic Patients with Renal Failure" at a Joslin-NEDH seminar on renal failure and diabetes mellitus. The seminar was attended by over 100 allied health professionals. Ms. Levine also discussed "Diet Therapy after Transplantation" with nurses and social workers at an October NEDH conference on nursing kidney transplant patients.

Emily Gaskin, diet technician, has been appointed program chairman of the Massachusetts chapter of the Hospital Institution and Educational Food Service Society (HIEFSS). Mrs. Gaskin, who will serve from September 1979 to September 1980, is responsible for educational programs sponsored by the society.

The 50th anniversary of the founding of the New England Society of Pathologists was recently celebrated at its annual meeting. The agenda included the **Third Annual Shields Warren Lecture,** delivered this year by Dr. S. C. Sommers, a former member of the Deaconess pathology department. Dr. Warren, pathologist in-chief, emeritus, was also honored as a co-founder of the society. Numbering more than 300 members, the society continues to uphold the long tradition of outstanding educational and scientific meetings. The Deaconess has been well represented in the society's leadership positions: the retiring president is Dr. Bradley Copeland, and previous presidents have included Drs. Shields Warren, William A. Meissner, Philip M. LeCompte, S. C. Sommers, David Skinner and Merle A. Legg.

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The New England Deaconess Hospital is a 489-bed and 14-building complex. Physicians from the Joslin Clinic, the Lahey Clinic, Overholt Thoracic Clinic and the general medical and surgical staffs serve the needs of their patients at the hospital. The Deaconess is internationally known for diagnosis, treatment and research in brain and chest surgery, cancer, diabetes and general medicine, and is affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

PULSE is published monthly by the public relations department of the New England Deaconess Hospital.

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School of Nursing holds Eleventh Annual Alumnae Day (see page 3).

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